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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Greek Orthodox Americans visit FM Gul - Sabah
Bartholomeus complains about Turkey to Athens - Milliyet
Schroeder: EU-Turkey talks should lead to full Turkish
membership - Sabah
Chriac-Schroeder agree on full Turkish membership - Hurriyet
Ankara prepares 'Bush-style' welcome for Putin - Aksam
12,000 more US troops to Iraq - Milliyet
Sharon looks for new coalition partners - Milliyet
Barghouti runs for presidency, al-Fatah may split - Aksam
Turkey backs Annan against corruption claims - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

EU Dutch presidency says entry talks may not begin in 2005 -
Radikal
'TRNC' calls on Ankara not to recognize Nicosia - Radikal
Germany's Stoiber: Ukraine more European than Turkey -
Radikal
Growing insurgency makes US send more troops to Iraq -
Cumhuriyet
European Parliament Speaker Borrell in Ankara - Cumhuriyet
Sharon-Peres partnership - Yeni Safak
EU takes over in Bosnia - Zaman
12 percent of US population are immigrants - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Patriarch Bartholomeus criticizes Ankara: The Turkish
press, citing Greek sources, claims that Orthodox Patriarch
Bartholomew I slammed the Turkish government in his talks
with visiting Greek Tourism Minister Dmitri Avramopoulos
earlier this week in Istanbul. The Patriarch reportedly
complained that Turkey has failed to keep its promise to
reopen Halki Seminary and has persistently refused to
recognize the ecumenical status of the Patriarchate. 'We
have repeatedly stated our reluctance to become a second
Vatican here in Istanbul,' Bartholomeus said, underlining
that he has never attributed a political meaning to the
title 'Ecumenical.' 'We cannot reject the Ecumenical title,
which was bestowed on us by history. We cannot deny our
identity,' the Patriarch emphasized.

'Archons' visit Turkey, honor Ambassador Edelman: The
'Archons' of the Orthodox Order of St. Andrew hosted a
reception and award ceremony in honor of US Ambassador Eric
Edelman on Thursday. Earlier this week, a 'crisis' flared
between the GOT and the US Embassy over the use of the
'Ecumenical' title for Patriarch Bartholomew I. The ruling
AK Party government ordered all Turkish bureaucrats not to
attend the reception. However, FM Gul received the Archons
Thursday evening, just before the reception. Ambassador
Edelman voiced to Gul US distress with regard to the call
for a 'boycott' of the event. The Archons, prominent
members of the US Orthodox community, urged FM Gul not to
restrict the activities of the Fener Patriarchate, and
called for more religious freedom in Turkey. Gul reportedly
told the delegation that Ankara has been seeking ways to
reopen Halki Seminary. Anthony Limberakis, on behalf of the
Archons, later told the press that the Ecumenical Patriarch
is the leader of over 300 million Orthodox Christians around
the world. Limberakis also noted that the Archons fully
support Turkey's EU aspirations.
Iraqi deputy president visits Ankara: Visiting Iraqi deputy
President Ibrahim al-Caferi told the Turkish press on
Thursday that the Iraqis agree with the Turks on the need to
eliminate the PKK presence in northern Iraq. However,
Caferi noted, it would be 'unrealistic' to expect a military
operation against the PKK before 2006.
Attacks on Kurdish groups on the rise in northern Iraq:
"Cumhuriyet" alleges that five members of the PKK/Kongra Gel

council who were shot dead in Mosul in November 29 were the organization's Syria coordinators. PUK, KDP and other Kurdish groups have become uneasy over killings on Mosul, which have reached 50 over the last two weeks. PUK buildings, vehicles and peshmerge are under constant attack for supporting the US, the report claims. The majority of attacks are perpetrated by the Iraqi Al-Qaida Jihad Organization run by al-Zarkawi, "Cumhuriyet" argues. The paper speculates that Syrian intelligence may have been responsible for the killings of the 5 PKK officials. Other potential suspects, according to "Cumhuriyet," include rival elements of the PKK and Arab-linked Al-Qaeda cells.

Two more Turks killed in Iraq: Two more Turkish truck drivers have reportedly been killed north of Baghdad, raising the toll of Turkish drivers killed to 68. On Thursday, PM Erdogan expressed his desire for an end to these attacks in talks with Iraqi Deputy President Ibrahim Caferi in Ankara.

PM Erdogan to open Armenian museum: PM Tayyip Erdogan will open an Armenian museum in Istanbul this Sunday to show that Turks and Armenians lived mostly in peace together in Ottoman times, "Milliyet" reports on its front page.

Putin due in Turkey: Ankara is to welcome Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin for a two-day visit beginning this Sunday, December 5. In the first visit to Turkey by a Russian president in 32 years, Putin will meet with President Sezer and PM Erdogan and sign seven bilateral agreements. Putin will discuss with Ankara the tanker traffic in the Bosphorus, economic and military cooperation, and the problems in the Caucasus. Security forces will take tight measures to protect the Russian leader, with more than 3,000 policemen deployed in Ankara. The visit, which comes on the eve of the December 17 EU summit, is expected to remind the Europeans of Turkey's 'strategic scope,' "Zaman" writes.

EP Chairman Borrell visits Turkey: European Parliament (EP) speaker Josep Borrell said that Turkey will certainly get a date from the EU on December 17. Speaking before departing for Turkey for a three-day visit, Borrell noted that Cyprus continues to be 'a problem waiting for a solution.' The start of negotiations 'in a real sense' depends on Turkish recognition of Nicosia, Borrell said. EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Commission Cochairman Joost Lagendijk will accompany Borrell on his trip to Turkey. The EP Speaker said the EU Turkey report indicated strong support by the EP for launching entry talks with Ankara. However, he warned that changes are possible to the Turkey report at the General Council. Borrell will meet with President Ahmed Nejdett Sezer, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Bulent Arinc, FM Abdullah Gul, and opposition CHP leader Deniz Baykal during his visit.

'Bridges TV' on air in US: "Bridges TV," a TV channel set up for combating prejudice against Muslims in the US following 9/11 is now on the air, "Aksam" reports. The channel has 50,000 subscribers.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/Campaign Against Terrorism

"Which Terrorism to Fight Against?"

Mustafa Balbay commented in the social democratic-opinion maker "Cumhuriyet" (12/3): "The situation in Iraq will continue to shape the nature of Turkish-American ties in the future. The US seems to be remaining blind to Turkey's sensitivities on the Iraq issue, including the presence of a terrorist organization in northern Iraq. The US does not seem to mind, because the terrorist activities there do not pose any harm to the US. . On the other hand, the US prefers to define its operations overseas as a fight against terrorism. Yet the US fight against terrorism seems to apply only to those terrorists who threaten the US and American interests. Other terrorists do not interest the US. Turkey should have been in a good position to raise this argument. Instead, the Turkish government remains silent and watches developments while the US is almost making a deal with the terrorist organization in northern Iraq."

"The Continuation of a Dirty War"

Ali Bayramoglu argued in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (12/3): "Things have entered a crazy phase in the post-September 11 era. It is now very obvious that September 11 served as a means for the US to extend its hegemony overseas. Today Iraq and Afghanistan are not the only countries listed by the US as posing a threat to US interests. The US aim goes beyond Iraq and Afghanistan and now covers the whole world. . In the post-9/11 period, the US has established a new security policy and is forcing other international actors to be involved in its implementation. The new policy has brought three consequences: The peaceful approach to solving global problems has been replaced by a war mentality. The basis

for national security has become military rather than political. The whole concept of human rights has changed due to the supremacy of security concerns. Overall, US hegemony has become a reality, and the US reliance on its military has become stronger than ever. Tomorrow will not be a better day than today. New tremors are highly likely along the `fault line' between Islamic civilization and the West."

EDELMAN